T H E C H I P P E N H A M

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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MEDICAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1915

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Local Government Board consider that this year the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health may be confined to a record of what has taken place during the year. Many of the usual details being omitted.

The presence of a considerable number of His Majesty's Troops in your district is,as might be expected,a cause of some cases of disease. We find amongst them 3 cases of Typhoid Fever. 3 Cases of Typhoid Fever were notified from one house at North Wraxall,and I have no doubt but that the Mother of the 3 children notified also suffered from the malady. A thorough inspection and an analysis of the drinking water failed to reveal the cause cause of the disease. Another case occurred in a small boy residing in Corsham. No insanitary conditions were found.He was a delicate boy who had passed a considerable portion of his life in the Bath United Hospital. All these cases (except those amongst the Military) were treated in the Isolation Hospital,and all recovered.

DIPHTHERIA . 8 cases were notified in 7 houses. Of these 3 were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There were 2 deaths. In 2 instances the source of infection was traced to contagion from a neighbouring district where Diphtheria was prevalent. The source of infection could not be traced in the other cases.

SCARLET. 72 cases of scarlatina were notified . Of these 56 were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths. Cases were notified from the Sub-districts of Chippenham Without, Christian Malford,Castle Combe, Corsham(including Box & Colerne). Sufficient use is not made of the Isolation Hospital by the inhabitants of Box and Colerne. If the early cases were notified and isolated the disease would not spread and be endemic as it is in these localities. This remark applies to all cases of infectiou disease this year. The type of disease is mild and there are no deaths,but this type may not always continue.

ISLAT ISOLATION HOSPITAL. This Hospital is worked jointly by the Chippenham Urban & Rural Authorities. Its use in controlling the spread of disease was amply shewn this yea The popularity of the Hospital may be gauged by the use made of it. 150 patients were admitted (8 cases of Typhoid-no death; 73 cases of Diphtheria-2 deaths; in both instances the patients were received in a dying condition; and 69 cases of Scarlatina-no deaths.)

When the epidemic of Diphtheria was at its height,fears were entertained by the Manggement that the Hospital Accommodation would not be sufficient. However fortune favoured them and the emergency was got through,the only inconvenience felt being the insufficiency of the sleeping accommodation for the extra nurses who were engaged to assist in the nursing of the patients.

Of the above cases 66 were admitted from the Rural District:- 3 Diphtheria,56 Scarlatina and 7 Enteric Fever

The following are the more important Sanitary works carried out during the past year:-

CORSHAM. Flushing Sewers. A system of flushing these sewers monthly has been introduced.

CORSHAM. Urinal. A new floor and channel has been laid and the urinal flushed regularly by means of an Automatic Flushing Cistern

BOX. Scavenging. At the end of the year the Council instructed the Sanitary Inspector to outline a scheme for collecting the house refuse in the populous areas of Box. A scheme was introduced and approved by the Council and such scheme has since commenced (1/2/16)

KINGTON St MICHAEL. Water Supply. An outline scheme was presented to the Council together with an estimate for providing a water supply to the Village of Kington St Michael. A Loan may be applied for later .

CORSHAM. Drainage Outfall. Several grips have been dug at the above outfall with a view of distributing the sewage equally over the land.

POUND PILL out fall. The filter beds and sludge lagoon have been cleaned out and fresh clinkers placed in the filter beds.

SAMPLES of WELL WATER taken. 27

Appended are the Tables of Statistics shewing Births, deaths Infectious disease and Infant Mortality for the past year

I have the honour to be

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant

Wm Thos Briscoe. M.D. Medical Officer of Health

T A B L E 1.

VITAL STATISTICS of WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 and previous years CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	B I R T H S		TOTAL DEATHS registered in the District		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS of Non-Residents regtd in the district	DEATHS of Residents not registered in the District	NETT DEATHS belonging to the District			
								under 1 year of age		at all ages	
		No	Rate	No	Rate			No.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	No	Rate
1910	17785	409	22'8	217	12'3	6	8	38	92'6	219	12'24
1911	18244	394	21'5	260	14'2	8	17	38	96'4	269	14'7
1912	do	366	20'6	183	10'03	6	22	16	43'7	199	10'9
1913	do	336	18'4	190	10'4	4	14	13	38'6	200	11'5
1914	17793	348	19'5	230	12'9	8	11	31	60'3	233	13'09
1915	15562	247	15'8	179	11'5	2	41	17	68.8	218	14'00

Area of District in acres (excluding area covered by water) 55269

Total population at all ages 15562

Number of Inhabitated houses 4279 at census 1911

Average number of persons per house 3'59

TABLE 2

CASES of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1915

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases notified. at all ages	at ages-years under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards	Total cases notified in each locality Chippenham Rural	Castle Combe	Christian Malford	Corsham	Total cases removed to Hospital
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	8			2	2	3	1		1	2		5	3
Erysipelas	4			1		1	2			2	1	1	
Scarlet Fever	72		14	48	8	1	1		4		19	49	56
Enteric Fever	7		1	3	1	2			1	3		3	7
Cerebro Meningitis (Spinal)	1					1						1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17			1	6	9	1		4	3	2	8	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6		2	3	1				1	3	2		
Totals	115		17	58	18	17	5		11	13	24	67	66

Isolation Hospital at Sheldon

T A B L E 3

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CAUSES of, and AGES at death during the year 1915

Causes of death	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of residents whether occurring within or without the District									Total deaths in Institutions
	ALL Ages	under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
ALL CAUSES	218	17	4	7	7	4	16	48	115	2
Whooping Cough	5	2	1	1	1	D				
Diphtheria & Croup	1				1					2
Influenza	4			1				1	2	
Phthisis(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7					1	4	1	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	9			1		1	4	2	1	
Cancer	19							12	7	
Organic Heart Disease	35				2	1		12	20	
Bronchitis	21	1	1	1			1	2	15	
Pneumonia	9	2					2		5	
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	4		1	1	1			1		
Anpendicitis & Typhlitis	2							1	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1							1		
Nephritis & Bright's disease	5							3	2	
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	9	9								
Violent deaths not suicides	5				2		1	1	1	
Other undefined Diseases	81	3	1	2		1	3	11	60	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1						1			

TABLE 4

INFANT MORTALITY, nett deaths from stated causes at ~~various ages~~ unde 1 year of age.

year ending 31st December 1915

Cause of death	under 1 week	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 month	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES	6		2	1	9	3		2	3	17
Whooping Cough			1		1	1				2
Congenital Malformations				1	1					1
Premature Birth	5				5					5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus			1		1	2			1	4
Meningitis (not tuberculous)								1		1
Convulsions	1				1					1
Pneumonia (all forms)								1	1	2
Bronchitis									1	1

NETT Births in the year legitimate 238

illigitimate 9

NETT Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 16

illigitimate infants 1